Fly Creeker

NEWSLETTER of the FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (FCAHS)
Editor: Bill Deane, P.O. Box 47, Fly Creek, NY 13337; Telephone (607) 547-5786.
Assistants: Jim Atwell, George Badgley, Carolyn McLean.
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4 * AUTUMN, 1995

NEWS BRIEFS

• Second reminder: 1995-96 dues were payable by August 1, 1995. If your name is not listed in the directory on page 5 of this newsletter, please use the application on the bottom of that page to renew your membership. While everything else goes up, our dues are still a modest $5 per year for individuals, or $8 for family memberships.

• An article of local interest appeared in the Sheridan, Wyoming Press on May 7, 1956. It profiled Hulett, WY resident Fred Sutton, who owned a rare antique grandfather clock, inscribed "Made in 1806, Fly Creek in New York." According to Sutton, his grandmother, Angelia Adams -- a cousin of John Quincy Adams -- had two of the clocks made to order. The clock, entirely made by hand, contained 15-pound pig-iron weights, was held together by wooden pegs, and was encased in solid walnut. It was moved to Wyoming in 1937.

• Mention was made in the Summer 1995 Fly Creeker of a cemetery on the Ed Timm property on the east side of Bissell Road, about three-tenths of a mile from Route 28. Legible names recorded on the stones (dated in the 1830s and '40s) there include James Fitch, William H. Steer, Thomas Montgomery, Susan E. Clark, and Charles Pierson.

• Elaine Harvey submits this autumn item, from Samuel Shaw's History of Cooperstown, 1839-1885: "This Fall (October 2, 1887) the new road through the 'gulf' leading west from Cooperstown to Fly Creek was opened. In this project the village was assisted by the people of Fly Creek."

• Two former FCAHS members died in recent months. Musa Gumone -- who had been appointed first editor of this newsletter, until health problems forced her to relinquish these duties -- died July 25, 1995, in Grand Junction, Colorado, aged 67. She had operated the Stocking Homestead Bed & Breakfast in Fly Creek before moving to Colorado in 1992. Violet Decker died at her Christian Hill home on August 8, 1995, aged 84. She was a member of the Fly Creek United Methodist Church.

• Among the 97 paid-up members listed on page 5 are five newcomers: Emera Bridger, Joann Christmann, Marion S. Creswell, and Harry & Betty McManus. Welcome aboard!

• FCAHS member Ken Baldwin, former pastor of the Fly Creek United Methodist Church, sends greetings. Rev. Baldwin is now pastor at the Andes United Methodist Church in Andes, NY. He recently scored an 86 at the Ouleout Creek Golf Course -- "not bad for an old coot," he says. Ken and his wife, Nan, spent ten days in Denmark and Sweden last month.

• Elaine Harvey recently came into possession of an interesting item: the Jones Sprayer, designed "for applying poisonous liquids or dry powders on animals and plants." According to the label, the item was "manufactured and sold by THE FLYCREEK BUTTER PAIL and GALVANIZED IRON EVESTROUGH WORKS, Flycreek, N.Y."

• The average attendance at FCAHS meetings was 28 in 1994-95, up about 10% from the previous year, according to President Peter Martin. (More News Briefs on following page)
NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

- A meeting of FCAHS trustees and committee chairpersons was held on September 11, with eleven present. Among the issues discussed were a proposed dues-hike, scheduled for 1996-97, and the production of membership cards.

- Jim Atwell, a member of our newsletter staff, has been penning a weekly column -- "From Fly Creek" -- in the Cooperstown Freeman's Journal. He will be speaking about his experiences during the October 25 FCAHS meeting. His August 20, 1995 column gives a touching first-hand account from Arrie Hecox, Jim’s neighbor, about a celebrity who spent some time right in our neighborhood. While famed aviatrix Amelia Earhart gave flying lessons at the Frankfort, NY airport in August 1924, she boarded in what is now Peg Famulare’s house right here in Fly Creek, and befriended the ten-year-old Arrie.

![AMELIA SLEPT HERE!](image)

MEETINGS

The final two 1995 meetings of the FCAHS will be held on October 25 and November 15. At the October meeting, Jim Atwell will speak on “Writing In & About Fly Creek.” The November meeting will feature the Otsego County Storytellers. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of the Fly Creek church beginning at 7:00 P.M., and are open to the public.

The Society’s three most recent meetings were held on July 26, August 23, and September 27, 1995. The July gathering feature a “box social” (raising $19.25 for the Society), after Charlie Michaels -- assisted by wife Barb -- gave a talk and video presentation entitled “Down by the Old Mill Stream.” It profiled the Fly Creek Cider Mill, certainly one of the hamlet’s best-known present features. A relaxed and effective speaker, Charlie told us of his and Barbara’s development of the mill’s business, described the processing of apples into cider, and showed several types of antique apple peelers and corers.

August brought the Society’s Annual Meeting. After a covered-dish supper, attendees watched Philip Bresée’s videotape of the 1990 Fly Creek Area Bicentennial celebration. During the business meeting, George Badgley was re-nominated for Vice President, Florence Michaels for Secretary, and Ed Thorne for a new three-year term as a Trustee. While the Nominating Committee seeks available candidates for the offices of President and Treasurer, Peter Martin and Alice Lavrinos will continue to hold the posts. Annual committee reports were also read during this meeting; the Public Committee’s is reprinted on page 6.

At the September meeting Rev. Horace King introduced his colleague, Father Douglas Smith, Rector of Cooperstown’s Christ Church. A Civil War scholar and re-enactor, “Private” Smith appeared in a Union uniform and gave a riveting history of the War Between the States. It focused on four Fly Creek area youths -- Eugene and Freeman Alger, James Lindsay, and Horace Field -- who enlisted for New York’s 121st Regiment in August, 1862; all four were dead within 21 months. The talk was rich with poignant detail and held the attention of a very large audience.

The FCAHS treasury balance, as announced during the last business meeting, stands at $7,740.36 in a Certificate of Deposit and $656.20 in the checking account. (Submitted by Jim Atwell)

The Society has learned of the death of Kenneth Laut on March 22, 1995. Mr. Laut, a member since 1993, had lived in Ormond Beach, Florida. We extend our belated condolences to his wife, Dorothy.
RESULTS OF THE POLL.

Following is a list of Town of Otsego Supervisors (since 1804) and Clerks (since 1825). These were compiled from minutes-books on file at the Office of the Town Clerk (who happens to be the editor's wife) in Fly Creek, and the 1677 book History of Otsego County, New York. Names are followed by years taken office:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOWN SUPERVISORS</th>
<th>TOWN CLERKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elijah H. Metcalf</td>
<td>George Pomeroy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Campbell</td>
<td>John Hannay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver Cory</td>
<td>Hiram S. Babcock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Metcalf</td>
<td>Henry P. Metcalf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Sprague</td>
<td>George Jarvis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Starkweather</td>
<td>Lewis M. Doubleday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Morell</td>
<td>J. A. Nellis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orestes Badger</td>
<td>Richard A. Lesley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elihu Phinney</td>
<td>Edmund D. Fersons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George A. Starkweather</td>
<td>Hiram S. Babcock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elisha Doubleday</td>
<td>Henry P. Metcalf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Doubleday</td>
<td>Marias B. Angell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Phinney</td>
<td>Luzerne M. Belles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Jarvis</td>
<td>John E. Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis R. Palmer</td>
<td>Henry L. Hinman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliab. P. Byram</td>
<td>Benjamin P. Murdock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John F. Scott</td>
<td>Charles R. Burch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliab. P. Byram</td>
<td>Henry W. Cory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levi C. Turner</td>
<td>Charles R. Burch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George W. Ernst</td>
<td>Ellery P. Cory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marias B. Angell</td>
<td>George Jarvis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horace M. Hooker</td>
<td>Ellery P. Cory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George W. Ernst</td>
<td>Stephen S. McFarran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John K. Leaning</td>
<td>Ellery P. Cory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel S. Edick</td>
<td>William P. K. Fuller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Wilson Cheney</td>
<td>George B. Cole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel S. Edick</td>
<td>Charles R. Alger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette Hinds</td>
<td>William D. Boden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John K. Leaning</td>
<td>William J. Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette Hinds</td>
<td>Jesse Bell Johnston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Lewis</td>
<td>Charles Kenney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James A. Lynes</td>
<td>Frank Hale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James F. Clark</td>
<td>Claude J. Burrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Van Horn</td>
<td>E. H. Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luther—I.—Burditt</td>
<td>Albert T. Van Horne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William A. Thayer</td>
<td>Frank B. Shipman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles D. Olendorf</td>
<td>Charles Kenney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fay E. Taylor</td>
<td>Lavern Hollis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Dean Burditt</td>
<td>Harry Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Laidler</td>
<td>William J. Averill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert S. Potts</td>
<td>Leon H. Ellsworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert S. Potts'</td>
<td>Joseph F. Wicks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Van Horn</td>
<td>Moir P. Tanner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George M. Wedderspoon</td>
<td>Clyde S. Becker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James J. Byard, Jr.</td>
<td>Floyd Munford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George M. Wedderspoon</td>
<td>Gordon S. Winnie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clement M. Allison</td>
<td>Leslie J. Woodbeck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert S. Potts</td>
<td>Dorrance Weir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clement M. Allison</td>
<td>G. Wayne Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Dana Whipple</td>
<td>Ray F. Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clement M. Allison</td>
<td>Donald C. Reed, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Dana Whipple</td>
<td>John A. Shipman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melvin C. Bundy</td>
<td>R. Stuart Peaslee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew T. Chapman</td>
<td>Dorothy K. Firman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alton G. Dunn</td>
<td>Mary Pangborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alton G. Dunn, Jr.</td>
<td>Betsy B. Goddard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph M. Clancy</td>
<td>Irwin W. Curlis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert B. Murdock</td>
<td>Maria Foits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David P. Bassler</td>
<td>Debbie Selan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pamela A. Deane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE GRANGE

The Grange movement was started in 1867 by Oliver Hudson Kelly and several other men. It was designed as a rural, family-oriented, fraternal organization, active in creating legislation beneficial to agricultural and rural affairs. Over the next three-quarters of a century, the Grange became a vital institution in rural America. It was a place where farm families could gather to discuss their economic problems and to socialize. Dances, suppers, cooking and sewing contests, and local fairs were among the events hosted by a typical Grange Hall.

The Grange was organized as a secret society and remains so to this day. A member initiated into the group learns a password and certain signals, which are to be used in the group gatherings and nowhere else. From the beginning, men and women were equal participants in holding office and in conducting the ritual at the business meetings. In 1904, Juvenile Granges were established in New York state for children under 14, at which age they could become members of the Adult, or Subordinate, Grange.

A typical county Subordinate Grange would organize as a Pomona Grange. Pomona is part of a State Grange, which in turn is associated with the National Grange (headquartered at Washington, D.C.). The Pomona Grange meets quarterly, usually at a different Grange Hall each time. The State and National Granges meet annually at different locations in the state or nation.

The country's first Grange was founded April 16, 1868, at Fredonia, Chautauqua County, NY. It was designated No. 1, with those that followed numbered in sequence. The Fly Creek Valley Grange, No. 790, was founded in 1894, and the Fly Creek Grange, No. 844, was established in 1898. Growth continued; in 1914, for example, there were 36 new Granges, with a total membership of 4,688, recorded in New York. Probably the last Grange formed in Otsego County was the Red Creek Valley Grange, No. 1583, in 1940. The New York State Grange is located in Cortland.

The first Master (presiding officer) of the Fly Creek Valley Grange was Ulysses Van Horn, and the Secretary was Frank Chamberlain. This Grange still exists, albeit with a small membership composed mostly of two families.

The Fly Creek Grange's first Master and Secretary were J. B. McManus and Peter McDonough, respectively. In recent years, the membership had dwindled to the point where those few who remained could no longer support its functions; it was finally dissolved, with its charter surrendered. The Otsego County Pomona Grange took over the property, located on Cemetery Road in Fly Creek, and is in the process of restoring the building and updating its facilities, so it can be used for activities of the Grange and other organizations.

Deputy Grange Masters of Otsego Pomona Grange represented the State Grange Master by making periodic official visits to local Granges. Among those who served in this capacity were W. H. Chamberlain, Charles W. Allen, George E. Ritter, Albert H. Straight, John W. Chase, Lester E. Hardy, Kenneth Anguer, Mattias Smith, Stanley R. Wilber, Murry Ames, Harold Bice, Eena Carvin, George H. Harrison, and Louise Armstrong. (Submitted by George Badgley)
FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1995-96 Roll of Membership (as of October 4, 1995)

*ATWELL, Dr. James
AUFMUTH, Jayne
*BADGLEY, Mr. & Mrs. George
BAKER, David & Scottie
*BALDWIN, Rev. Kenneth

BARNOWSKY, Dr. & Mrs. Laurence
*BERTINO, Dr. Joseph
BOUTON, Ronald & Carol
*BRESEE, Philip & Ruth
BRIDGER, Emera

*BURNHAM, Garfield & Catherine
CARR, Richard D.
CHRISTMANN, Joann
CLARK, Mr. & Mrs. Francis
CLAYTON, Robert E.

CRESWELL, Marion S.
*CURLIS, Irwin & Virginia
*DAY, Irving III & Kathleen
*DEANE, Bill & Pam
*DEVENPECK, Hattie

DODGE, Martha
DRUMM, Suzanne
*ELDRIDGE, Margaret
FARMER, Dr. Edward & Mary
FISH, Jim & MerriLynn

FOUTC, Maud
GOODSPEED, Charles & Ann
HANEY, Craig
HANOR, Katherine
*HARVEY, Merritt & Elaine

HECOX, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene
JENKINS, Arthur & Ruby
*JENSEN, Margaret
KEATING, William & Evelyn
KNAPP, Jean

LAUT, Dorothy
*LAVRINOS, Nicholas & Alice
LEVINE, Harry & Ellen
LUDLAM, Henry & Toni
LYONS, Irving & Joan

MacDOUGALL, Hugh & Eleanor
MARTIN, Homer & Leila
*MARTIN, Peter & Dorothy
McLEAN, Carolyn
McMANUS, Harry & Betty

MICHAELS, Charles & Barbara
*MICHAELS, Florence
NAFZIGER, Dr. Anne
*NORRIS, Robert & Patricia
POPE, Janice

*POTTS, Maxine
REILLY, Edward
REZEN, Paul & Sally
SHARPE, Stuart & Bonnie
SMALE, Capt. Gordon F.

SMITH, Zoe
*SNYDER, Art & Freida
TALBOT, William & Evelyn
THORNE, Edwin & Judy
TILLAPAUGH, Marjorie

WINNE, Helen
YOURNO, Albert, Ann & James
ZYSKOWSKI, Dr. Lawrence

*Charter Member (continuous membership since the Society's founding in 1989).

Note: If your name is not listed above, please use the application below to renew your membership. Thank you all for your continued support!

1995-96 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 87, Fly Creek, NY 13337

Name(s): ________________________________ Renewal __ New Membership __

Address: ____________________________________________________________ Telephone: ________________

Check applicable box(es):

☐ Please register me as a member of the FCAHIS. Enclosed is a check for $5.

☐ Please register us to a family FCAHIS membership. Enclosed is a check for $8.

☐ Please accept the enclosed donation, in the amount of $______ (minimum $10), and enroll me/us as a contributing/sustaining member(s).
FCAHS PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: 1994-95 Annual Report

Following is the text of the FCAHS Publications Committee's 1994-95 annual report, as delivered by committee chairman Bill Deane during the August 23 meeting:

The Publications Committee, consisting of Jim Atwell, George Badgley, Carolyn McLean, and myself, held its annual meeting at my home on March 11, 1995. Other FCAHS members who have been particularly helpful to our committee over the past year include, alphabetically, Elaine Harvey, Alice Lavrinos, Hugh MacDougall, Peter Martin, Florence Michaels, Sally Rezen, and Freida Snyder -- essentially, the same list of names we report every year.

Among our committee's accomplishments in the past year were publication of our first six-page edition of the Fly Creeker (Spring 1995), and preparation of an index of past issues, covering Summer 1989 through Winter 1995. The Summer 1995 Fly Creeker marked our 25th newsletter, totaling 100 pages. We plan to continue publishing quarterly (in January, April, July, and October each year), with length dependent on the amount of material available. The Autumn 1995 edition is expected to be ready in time for the Applefest weekend in October.

Because we have received very few new articles during the past twelve months, the surplus of articles we reported last year has dwindled to a small backlog. Articles that will appear in future editions include ones on Otsego Town Supervisors and Clerks of the past, the local Grange, the poetry of former Fly Creek resident Phyllis Talbot; the Fly Creek Valley School; and Fly Creek's connection to the Baseball Hall of Fame. We hope that more members will submit research findings and potential articles, enabling us to publish more six-page newsletters.

As usual, we welcome the input and advice of the FCAHS membership as to what our committee is doing or ought to be doing.

FLY CREEK AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 87
Fly Creek, NY 13337